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**From:** CN=Bob Perciasepe/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US [CN=Bob Perciasepe/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US]  
**Sent:** 2/8/2011 12:52:49 AM  
**To:** CN=Betsaida Alcantara/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA  
**CC:** "Adora Andy" [Andy.Adora@epamail.epa.gov]; Bob Sussman" [Sussman.Bob@epamail.epa.gov]; N=Seth Oster/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Arvin Ganesan/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA; N=Arvin Ganesan/OU=DC/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA  
**Subject:** Re: More stakeholder reaction

Betsaida:

FYI, I was able to get with Audubon, National Wildlife Federation, Ducks Unlimited and Trout Unlimited early this afternoon.

Bob Perciasepe  
Deputy Administrator

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From: Betsaida Alcantara/DC/USEPA/US  
To: "Bob Perciasepe" <Perciasepe.Bob@epamail.epa.gov>, "Bob Sussman" <Sussman.Bob@epamail.epa.gov>, "Adora Andy" <Andy.Adora@epamail.epa.gov>  
Date: 02/07/2011 05:11 PM  
Subject: More stakeholder reaction

Subject: EPA to study Bristol Bay/Pebble Mine \* press release\*

For immediate release – Monday, February 7, 2011

EPA takes first step toward protecting Bristol Bay, announces scientific assessment of watershed

Anchorage – Alaska Natives, the commercial fishing industry and sportsmen applauded the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's announcement today to conduct a scientific assessment of the Bristol Bay watershed.

"Today's announcement from the EPA is a great first step toward protecting Bristol Bay from the dangers of Pebble Mine," said Tim Bristol, Director of Trout Unlimited's Alaska Program. "We are pleased the EPA is doing the right thing by starting a public process and gathering scientific data about how mining would have an impact on the health and environment of Bristol Bay."

The proposed Pebble Mine could mean the devastation of a 40,000-square-mile wetland – about the same size as Kentucky. Mining in Bristol Bay also puts at risk the world's largest sockeye salmon run, as well as the thousands of jobs associated with this \$450 million-a-year fishery.

In 2010, nine federally-recognized Bristol Bay tribes petitioned the EPA to use its authority under the section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act to protect Bristol Bay. On Monday, the EPA responded to this request, and noted that Bristol Bay "may be the last major watershed in North America that produces historic numbers of wild salmon." The full EPA press release is here: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/8c1e5dd5d170ad99852578300067d3b3?OpenDocument> <<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/8c1e5dd5d170ad99852578300067d3b3?OpenDocument><<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/8c1e5dd5d170ad99852578300067d3b3?OpenDocument><<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/8c1e5dd5d170ad99852578300067d3b3?OpenDocument>>>

"We look forward to working with the EPA during the next several months," said Brian Kraft, the owner of the Alaska Sportsman's Lodge and Alaska Sportsmen's Bear Trail Lodge. "This is just the sort of science-based process we're looking for in Alaska, to understand how we can protect Bristol Bay, the salmon population, its fishing industry and the thousands of American jobs it supports."

Today's announcement begins a public process to determine the effects of large-scale development in Bristol Bay, primarily in the Nushagak and Kvichak watersheds.

The process initiates scientific review, tribal consultation, federal and state agency participation, as well as public and industry input.

"As an Alaska Native, a commercial fisherman and a resident of the Bristol Bay region, I commend the EPA for taking this important step in a process that will protect my family's livelihood and our way of life," said Everett Thompson, a Bristol Bay fisherman.

"Today's response is a victory for Alaskans."

Trout Unlimited, a non-profit dedicated to the conservation of freshwater streams, rivers, and habitat for trout, salmon and other aquatic species, is working with an unprecedented coalition to protect Bristol Bay from the dangers of mining. This diverse effort brings together Native Alaskans, the commercial fishing industry, the sports fishing industry and tourism-related businesses.

Bristol Bay is:

- A 40,000-square mile wetland with nine major rivers
- Home of the world's largest sockeye salmon run
- Host to one of North America's leading king salmon populations
- The center of a \$450 million-a-year fishing industry
- One of the last untouched areas on the planet

Pebble Mine would:

- Create an open-pit mine up to two miles wide and 1,700 feet deep
- Dig an underground mine of a similar scale
- Dump up to 10 billion tons of perpetually toxic mine waste in the heart of the Bristol Bay watershed
- Be operated by and profit two foreign companies with a poor environmental record
- Potentially destroy salmon runs, other fishes, habitat, wildlife and the overall beauty of this productive and wild area

To find out more about Trout Unlimited's efforts, see [www.SaveBristolBay.org](http://www.SaveBristolBay.org)

<<http://www.SaveBristolBay.org><<http://www.savebristolbay.org/>>>

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----- Original Message -----

From: Betsaida Alcantara

Sent: 02/07/2011 05:09 PM EST

To: Bob Perciasepe; Bob Sussman; Adora Andy

Subject: Sporting groups nationwide applaud EPA plans to study Bristol Bay's fish and wildlife resources

FYI

Contact:

Scott Hed; Director, Sportsman's Alliance for Alaska; (605)-351-1646

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – February 7, 2011

Sporting groups nationwide applaud EPA plans to study Bristol Bay's fish and wildlife resources

Sioux Falls, SD – Hunting and angling interests around the country have mobilized in recent years to protect the waters and lands of southwest Alaska's famed Bristol Bay region. These groups are applauding today's announcement by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that the agency is planning an assessment of the Bristol Bay watershed to better understand how future large-scale development projects may affect water quality and Bristol Bay's salmon fishery. EPA initiated this assessment in response to concerns from federally-recognized tribes and others who petitioned the agency in 2010 to assess any potential risks to the watershed.

"The potential development in the region is scary for sportsmen," said Scott Hed, Director of the Sportsman's Alliance for Alaska. "Each year anglers and hunters make the trip to Alaska just for an opportunity to fish and hunt in the famous Bristol Bay watershed. Sportsmen and women from across the country have joined forces to stop plans by foreign mining interests that could turn the entire Bristol Bay region into a massive mining district. Today's announcement by the EPA shows that the agency recognizes the threats posed by the proposed Pebble Mine project, and that it is better to address these very serious concerns up front rather than wait until it may be too late."

Over 325 sporting groups and businesses oppose the mining plans in Bristol Bay. Sporting conservation groups and trade associations include Dallas Safari Club, Trout Unlimited, Federation of Fly Fishers, European Fishing Tackle Trade Association, Canadian Sportfishing Industry Association, American Fly Fishing Trade Association, American Sportfishing Association, Izaak Walton League of America, Wildlife Forever, Delta Waterfowl Foundation, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, Bull Moose Sportsman's Alliance, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, North American Fishing Club, North American Hunting Club, and the Campfire Club of America. Some of the most recognizable brands in hunting and fishing products have expressed their wishes to protect Bristol Bay as well, including Sturm, Ruger & Co., Savage Arms, Buck Knives, Hornady, Sitka, Filson, Orvis, Sage, Simms, ExOfficio, Patagonia, Scott, Hardy, and more than 150 others.

"This is an issue that unites the complete spectrum of the sporting community," continued Hed. "When you have got catch and release anglers and makers of fly rods and reels working in concert with big game hunters and firearm manufacturers, that's a powerful set of interests – all in agreement that large-scale mining in the Bristol Bay watershed is simply the wrong idea in the wrong place. We look forward to working with the EPA and other decision makers as this public process to determine the fate of Bristol Bay moves forward."

## Background

### Bristol Bay = International Fishing and Hunting Mecca

The stakes are high for sporting interests in southwest Alaska's Bristol Bay region, an area that is home to the world's largest wild salmon runs, as well as some of the greatest trophy rainbow trout fishing and remote wilderness hunting on the planet. It's a wild, remote and rugged place that is in the crosshairs of a plan to develop a massive mining district on millions of acres of state and federal lands.

Commercial, sport, and subsistence fishing all depend on the wild salmon supported by Bristol Bay's healthy waters. For thousands of years, Alaska natives have lived off Bristol Bay's land, waters, and of course, its fish and wild game. Bristol Bay is home to the world's largest commercial wild sockeye salmon fishery, with earnings accounting for nearly 33% of Alaska's total harvest earnings. The harvest and processing of Bristol Bay fish generates nearly \$450 million a year and provides jobs for thousands.

For more information on the Sportsman's Alliance for Alaska visit:

[www.SportsmansAlliance4AK.org](http://www.SportsmansAlliance4AK.org) <<http://www.SportsmansAlliance4AK.org><<http://www.sportsmansalliance4ak.org/>>>

For more information on today's EPA announcement see the official news release

<<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/d0cf6618525a9efb85257359003fb69d/8c1e5dd5d170ad99852578300067d3b3!OpenDocument><<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/d0cf6618525a9efb85257359003fb69d/8c1e5dd5d170ad99852578300067d3b3!OpenDocument>>> .